

32-16 88 St.
Jackson Hts., N. Y. C., N. Y. 11369
April 10, 1975

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Rte. 8
Frederick, Md. 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

It was so good to talk with you! I recognized your voice from the TV program almost immediately and, of course, my emotions got rather much for awhile. Like the man says, Forgive my Grief. You took your cue right away, when I told you that you would remember my writing the first time. As you must realize now, I just wanted to be sure the letter I wrote recently got through to you...so I tried to pretend you already knew. O. K., that's settled. As for your note 4/6/75, thank you very much. I appreciate how busy you must be.

I believe researching these letters to the editors is dangerous in Dallas. I used to go to NTSU in Denton and once I tried looking into the library's back files...newspapers. Although I'm not certain it was that day, I was tailed for 5 miles by a Tex. Dept. of Public Safety car along my way back to Dallas. It was annoying because except for our two cars, there was no one else at all on the highway. It would have been that day, but I was politically active in a small way. As I said, I didn't think much of it either then than maybe a cop was flirting with me. Until I read about Ms. Martin being tailed into Dallas.

I tried awfully hard to fix the time of the actual threat in the paper, before Kennedy came to Dallas and if I couldn't do it then, I don't see how I can do it now. I'm going to try. I really did believe Dallas was dangerous ~~wkik~~ for Kennedy, but without that piece of paper in my hand, my word was without value. Worse than valueless. If I had it, or a date for it, I would have sent out warnings anonymously. Anyway, then the Secret Service came from Washington, and they said he would be protected from those who had published threats. I knew of no other published threats and was relieved.

After the assassination, I still believed it possible that the editor had slipped it into print to show that the radical left could parallel the radical right. I wrote to the Warren Commission because this had not come to public attention. I want to bring to your attention, how different was my view of the happenings in Dallas..than most anyone else's.

As an example, take after the assassination: I was inclined to believe what out-of-state press said about Ruby. He was at Dallas News, went to KLIFF (very right-wing) to the Times Herald. I asked myself, if he might have known about the letters or other communications in the same vein. Was he trying to solve the mystery? Why did he then kill Oswald?

Another idea I had was the letters might have been signals

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for isolated action groups or individuals to enact certain elements in a plot. While it is unlikely for a large number of persons to be involved in a plot of this magnitude and to successfully keep it secret...it would not be impossible for there to have been a parallel structure of cells in operation in and out of Dallas, whose members did not know of others and just what their exact function was. It would be possible for someone with real PR talent to work this up into existence. The people used didn't have to be too bright.

This would have accounted for the phony Oswald trails and even maybe the letters I wrote about. There could have been a dual purpose: as signals and as evidence to frame Oswald. I didn't read every letter to the editor. There might have been others. Maybe they were only in home delivered editions.

My best recollection for the first letter was around March 1963. I wrote about it to one of my Eastern friends which I tore up *(my letter)* because it was so hopeless to explain Dallas to someone outside. I wrote a second letter, but I don't think it was specific as to the O. H. Lee bit. I questioned some of my friends later, to no avail. It had to be before September 1963 because I joined the League of Women Voters then.

Anyway, there's another point: if Oswald wrote these letters he had penpals. I said to the Warren Commission, in a letter I thought lambasted the local press...that I made up my mind to stop reading these horrid columns of opinions. That turned out not to be true. I could no longer resist reading them. I wrote them and sometimes got into print. More important, I got answers both pro and con. There wasn't a single letter that me or my husband wrote that got into print and didn't get some reply. You believe?

The next part is agency for me. After the Warren Report came out; I always thought I had an incomplete edition. Surely the assassination wasn't explained thusly. My key to development of the true picture would be when it was leaked to the press that LBJ had also been threatened...to knit factions in Texas politics behind LBJ. As you know, that never happened.

I kept diaries and appt. memos in Texas. I took out as much of this junk as I could when I left. I'd never have been able to remember details of what happened without these aids. To remember names of people I'd met, I'd record them. Incidents of interest, like being tailgated.

December, 1965: My husband wrote a letter to the editor that was critical of the Dallas School Board. It printed. We got letters in support. We were invited to help launch an opposition slate. Wexx were about a dozen people. Nothing. We got the group going, with very well-credentialed people.

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At this point, I say a newspaper or facimile newspaper was delivered to our house that said that a rumored roundup of informants to the Warren Commission was in the offing. I complained to my husband about this, but he was not enthusiastic about continuing political activity and he was inclined to be short with me. He had begun to worry about my intensity of concern and this claim of mine about the newspaper article served to convince him that I was going off the deep end. When I realized he wasn't believing me and wanted me to get medical attention, I acquiesced to seeing our family doctor. That started a commitment proceeding which ended with me being in Parkland.

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In Parkland, I was ~~/XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ through a series of "stimuli" which utilized PR stunts, rather impressive if one believes everything one sees. I wish I could say I managed with some grace, but I panicked. To me, the series of "stimuli" extended forward in time to the original newspaper article at the top of the page here. To me, it meant that the people who had arranged the assassination were having me dealt with...perhaps done away with...and they would get away with killing Kennedy too. I went into shock. I had a tic, my head shaking sometimes, which I could not control. If you allow yourself to believe me for a moment, would it not seem so to you also? That I was to be disposed of? Certainly at the least, discredited as a witness. I spent six months of very hard time.

My husband was told to keep me away from my political friends and to throw away the papers I had been reading when I got "sick". The psychiatrist who had charge of me said that when K when reality got threatening, I lost reality. What was real to me was reality + plus what I felt was real. He almost had me convinced of the first half of the statement. Except that here in N. Y. C., I faced down a girl with a gun who was trying to hold me up. The men in my office said they would have handed over their wallets. Another time when I was mugged and hit over the head a couple of times, people in a lighted store wouldn't help me although my mouth was bleeding. I had to get help myself, which I did. I didn't lose any reality. All right. This is my personal frame of reference.

I have some conjectures: we were introduced to some people from New Orleans after my husband's letter appeared in the paper. I didn't like them...they seemed rather unsavory types. There was a man named Estel Parham, an older woman with silver or blond hair, a young girl whom my husband's lab assistant had found to room with, and a young man who wanted to know if my husband could get him some drugs...mescaline or LSD. These people gave me very bad vibes and I told my husband to tell his technician to move. The roommates had a falling-out and she did move shortly afterward.

Harold Weisberg

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More conjecture: In early August 1965, I noticed an item in the newspaper (Times) which said that Park Street, a San Antonio Houston (?) attorney had committed suicide by means of hanging himself with a belt from a bedpost. He was supposed to have founded the court of last resort to defend deemed convicts along with Stanley Gardner. I thought that was an awfully unlikely way for him to do this and that this might be just the sort of person who might have inspired the confidence of people who were knowledgeable about the Kennedy assassination.

Still More: This is probably grossly unfair to the man, but...it is my opinion that R. S. Truly wrote letters to the Dallas papers and presumably, read them as well. Perhaps, though, he was only being a good citizen after the JFK murder. A lot of Dallasites did come forward and brave harassment and threats for being pro-Kennedy. I don't know about before. That's when I started looking for them.

A very recent article in the Times about Life Line, radio program. It doesn't come to hand readily. Seems to me that the present leading light of Life Line is saying that there was ~~an~~ anonymous editor during the period I now believe a dangerous plot against Kennedy was brewing. NY Times 4/3/75 p.19

Hope to meet you soon.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Brake

P. S. Naturally, I do not wish you to use my name in connection with any of this, at present. Perhaps there will be a break soon.